Posting of Doctors in Rural Areas

218. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while delivering the presidential address at the 27th Convocation of AIIMS held in April, 1997, the Prime Minister called upon the doctors to serve in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any scheme for doctors to serve in the rural areas, before conferring the MBBS degrees throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Only a Doctor possessing M.B.B.S. degree given in the Schedule to Indian Medical Council Act, 1955 is eligible for enrolment on any State Medical Register for practising medicine in any State as per the provisions of Section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

Failure of Population Control Policy

219. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the specific policy of Government with regard to population control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the population control policy has failed, as viewed in terms of annual rate of growth of population;

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to tackle the problem of ever-rising population; and

(d) what are the specific schemes/programmes in this regard and what has been the annual allocation of funds for each scheme/programme, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Government policy on population is to provide contraceptive services, supplies and information, to enable couples to exercise voluntary and informed choice in regard to contraception and family size. The annual exponential rate of growth of population declined from 2.22% in 1981 Census to 2.14% in 1991 Census. Further, the natural rate of growth of population declined to 1.93% as per the estimates of the Sample Registration System for 1995.

The Annual Plan allocation for the National Family Welfare Programme during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

1995-96(BE)	1996-97(RE)	1997-98(RE)
1342.00	1453.57	1709.85

Grievance Redressal Cell for Medical Treatment

220. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a grievance redressal cell has been established by Government, to deal with complaints relating to medical treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of complaints received in this Cell during the last six months and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to inform the masses about the existence of such a Cell and how to lodge their complaints therewith?